Since there is no difference in senior citizen's fare charged from Travel Agents and Indian Airlines, the question of refunding excess money does not arise.

Completion of privatisation of airports

1955. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the process of the proposed leasing of metro airports to private operators would not be complete by the scheduled date of March, 2003; and

(b) if so, at what stage is the proposal and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry had introduced AAI (Amendment) Bill 2000 in Lok Sabha in November, 2000 for making an enabling provision for leasing of airports. The said Bill was referred to Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture. The Hon'ble Committee tabled its report on 21.11.2002 in the Parliament.

Operation of Qatar Airways

1956. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Qatar Airways has decided to start flights from Hyderabad;

(b) if so, by when this service will be started; and

(c) the other starting points from where Qatar Airways provides air services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) As per the Winter 2002-03

schedule as approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation, Qatar Airways are authorised to operate to/from India as per following details:

Sector	Frequency per week
Doha-Mumbai *vice versa*	6
Doha Thiruvananthapuram *Vice Versa*	7
Doha-Hyderabad *vice versa*	3

Concessional fare on Delhi-Nagpur-Raipur sector

†1957. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state·

(a) whether there is any scheme to declare special concessional fares on route for Delhi-Nagpur-Raipur where Indian Airlines is the only service providers;

(b) if so, by when, it is going to be implemented and if not, the reasons for depriving the passengers of this route from this facility; and

(c) whether any other Airlines are also interested in providing services on this route and if so, by when this service is scheduled to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir

(b) Indian Airlines introduces promotional fares on certain domestic sectors from time to time in response to market requirements. The market considerations on flights on this sector do not justify introduction of promotional fares.

(c) No other airline has evinced interest in providing services on this route.

Hike in Airfares

1958. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent to hike in the price of aviation fuel and high sales tax on fuel, domestic airlines are all set to raise passenger fares;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.